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Thank you members of the committee. My name is Guy Williams and I am the President and CEO of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice (DWEJ). We are a non-profit organization based in Detroit. DWEJ was founded in 1994 to empower individuals, communities and community organizations in Southeast Michigan to educate, advocate and organize for cleaner, healthier communities and environments.

I am here to today to speak in support of House Bill No. 4635.

Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice supports the application of community benefits agreements in situations where there is strong evidence that communities face the potential of significant harm by a proposed project.

The proposed International Bridge is such a project.

Although the Record of Decision made an attempt to clarify how disproportionately high, adverse effects on the target community will be addressed, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice contends that the measures suggested as remedies do not go far enough.

DWEJ recommends the use of innovative yet proven technologies that go beyond a "minimalistic" approach to the situation. This project is purported to have tremendous upside economic value for the state. If this is true, then the project is worthy of investments that will make it exemplary in every way.

It is common knowledge the current Clean Air Act provisions are not fully protective of human health, especially in that they give no allowance for addressing the overlap of multiple sources of pollution, commonly referred to as cumulative impacts.

The boundaries of the Study Area include several of the largest sources of pollutants in the region, e.g. Marathon Oil's refinery, the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department wastewater treatment plant and sludge incinerators, I-75 and facilities on Zug Island to name a few.

DWEJ would like to see strategies put in place that will allow for real-time monitoring of air quality, harness Michigan-made technology for reducing diesel truck emissions, and institute variable pricing structures that reward clean truck traffic.

We find the list of mitigation and enhancements to address environmental justice concerns in the Record of Decision woefully inadequate and not all commensurate with the potential harm of the project.

Passage of House Bill No. 4635 will help ensure that the project meets all of its goals. In other words, the bridge will bring vitality to the host community as well as the rest of the State.